



To: CNSS Board of Trustees

From: Don O'Neill

Subject: Message From the Incoming President

As the newly elected president of the CNSS I want to express my appreciation for the leadership of Dr. Alan Salisbury over the past five years. He has been instrumental in achieving the current health and status of the CNSS: the Second National Software Summit (NSS2) was held, the Software 2015 Report was released and is starting to impact the community, and the National Software Strategy Steering Group (NSG) was convened with notable principal members spanning sixteen organizations with Alan as the Interim Chair. I know that the CNSS officers and board members join me in this expression of appreciation for a job well done.

Now I would like to set forth my vision for the CNSS going forward. Just as a successful product launch must be followed by a timely service offering, the CNSS content creation cycle culminating in the Software 2015 Report must be followed by a period of consolidation and dissemination. I acknowledge that the onus for content creation is shifting to the NSG which is charged with steering the national software strategy through defined programs and initiatives addressing trustworthy systems, software innovation, software workforce, and software research and development.

The CNSS will be transitioning to a program office service structured to respond to new projects. The CNSS structure includes the CNSS brand, the 501 (c) 3 status, the capability to receive and disburse funds, the CNSS web page with its embedded NSG section, the project management and software engineering skills to launch and oversee studies and projects, and a wide network of knowledge resources upon which to draw. The CNSS appreciates that Cigital, Inc. continues to support and sustain the CNSS web resource.

In this program office service model the CNSS is currently servicing one project, the NSG. Going forward, new project proposals will be considered by the CNSS. These projects are expected to come with explicit budget, schedule, and performance dimensions. These projects will be in the national interest and may originate in industry, government, and academia.

The CNSS will continue to exhibit the utmost objectivity and the highest professionalism in the performance of the studies and projects it undertakes. While the CNSS seeks not to duplicate earlier work or work in progress, it recognizes that the complex issues that are impacting national policy contain numerous dimensions that must be thoroughly understood and synthesized. Accordingly, the CNSS is committed to identifying, selecting, incorporating, and integrating the best existing work in the execution of new studies and projects. The CNSS is committed to continuously expanding its network of knowledge resources that can be brought to bear on software issues of national importance.

We have laid the groundwork. The CNSS has focused on identifying issues, framing program initiatives, and packaging a strategic direction in the form of a national software strategy. It is now time to focus on the dissemination of this work. I see our primary mission as one of reaching our nation's leaders, government and industry executives, university and professional leaders, and the general public and bringing software to the forefront. I see this as a joint mission for the CNSS and the NSG.

I welcome your suggestions and look forward to working with you during the coming year.

Don O'Neill  
President

[ONeillDon@CNsoftware.org](mailto:ONeillDon@CNsoftware.org)